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NEW ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

1/27/68

Dear Steve,

Your undated letters postmarked 24 and 25 arrived today. I am getting farthur and farthur behind in my preparations for the coming trip, but I reply in haste and want to discuss some of the things (breah of confidence, Trent) when I am out there. Briefly, I'm afraid that you will find that you must have dealings with people who do not treat honestly with you. However, must be certain never to mention what you do not want them to use. Please, I think we should discuss, otherwise you'll not benefit from a faceless face.

On Hall: Yes, if you think he will (and I'd like to try and see Houston anyway), but not in a private plane, for we'll then still need a car. I'd like Art to go with me and perhaps we can use his car. He also can tape. We'll also in a small plane be the creatures of weather. And, especially if you can go along, we can have several hours for talking. Maybe your car wouldbe better?

New Orleans: Do not figure on going now for the trial will not be 2/13 and there is no need for you to be there for the preliminaries. In the past few days I have spoken with Alcock, Sciambra and Garrison, and all say the same, it will be after the first week of March. Also, because of your school work, I encourage you to delay going there until the last minute because you should figure on a 5-6 week trial. Gird you loins, man! Five weeks away from school? I asked Mumu this question when he phoned last night, because he'd like me there and I wanted to know for how long. Also, this means you can figure on me being in LA for the entire week of the 11th.

These are the more important things you raised. If you have any doubt about the above information, phone New Orleans. There is another consideration: making you money last. This means, be there only when you must. Now, if I am there, someone can share my room (I'm real square!) without hardship, for I do not run around with women. That will make his money go farthur, whoever he is, and I think it should be you or Hal. Ivon will probably have a room for me at the Fountainbleau.

When I said the end of the week of 2/4 for my being in LA, I was figuring on a full week in SF, as Hal wants. I get there the night of 2/2, unless I have a delay in Chicago, in which event I'll be there the am of 2/3. In either case, not less than a full week. However, load the first fews days up. Five shows in two days is nothing. Then, if you do not line up more, I'll try after I get there. While I am out there I will do as much as I can. Try and keep Monday night open or at least flexible on the chance I can do the Pyne Show again. The chances are remote, but they exist. I'm to phone them from SF.

Before I forget, one of the young men with you when I met you at Maggies in 1966 had a Mannlicher-Carcano. I need one, with a sight exactly the same as the one on "Oswald's" rifle, and mounted exactly the same way, with a clip, if possible the several clips that are available for that model. I'll explain when I am out there. This can be very important, so please try and squeeze it in. I have some Ammo but could use more if he has any.

But before you set shows for Friday, speak to Hal and be certain he does

not figure on using me then. I'll send him a copy of this letter. Fine about Al Swartz. But you'll find out you'll be there. However, even if you are, it will be good for him to take some of the load off of you, because you should also be trying to get ahead in your school work so that the time you miss will cost you less. Have you made arrangements for a place for me to stay? The Grossmans are a wonderful family. I really enjoyed being with them. They live as too few families do, and it is pleasureable and inspiring to see it.

On your travel to the trial: don't buy any tickets you cannot turn in. Do not worry about it yourself. Find a good travel agency (Maggie's), tell them what you want, and let them do the worrying. It costs you nothing. Do not take your car if you can avoid it. Fly. I'll be in N.O. at the same time and I'll take care of getting us a car most of the time. I learned the hard way. I've spent about $100 on cabs down there just helping Jim-not for myself! For many things the car will just slow you down. You'll want it only at night, when it is not indespensible.

You are right on Art and the "rumor". Only it was not a rumor. Someone who saw the Dolan Show phoned me because I had been refusing to say anything. I remembered the picture, was not 100% certain but was fairly so, as Art knows. I said nothing about "wrongly", although I think it would have been better to avoid it, as you tried. Don't feel badly. You did what was right, even in showing it to them. This is the sort of accident that is unavoidable. They happen, and they must not be traumatic when they do or it will cripple you. However, since it has been used, I'd like a copy for only one possible use, where it can do some real good. I'll discuss it with you when I'm there. I will not want it in SF. In the future, if you do not mind the suggestion, restrict the consultation to Hal. If you want more than his judgement, I'll give you others, besides Maggie, who I think is perhaps best of all. You haven't mentioned her. I assume she is back now. Generally speaking, if I may make the suggestion, restrict the disclosure of what you want to be kept in confidence to where it is essential. I did not hear of Mort's diatribe, but I'd like to hear it, word for word. I haven't changed my opinion that he and Mark may have arranged Shaw's acquittal, for only wrong and greedy-and dishonorable purpose. He never answered the letter of which I sent you a copy after his first trip to N.O.

On Haggerty. You read him correctly, but not the meaning. There are other motions that can and will be entered by the defense. After all of them are disposed of, after all the appeals are heard, there will still be the impanelling of the jury. Tell Steve to save his time and money, unless he gets a call. When the jury selection begins is plenty of time, believe me. PLEASE, all you fellows in college, try and be patient, or you'll miss what you want, which, really, is only the meat. Please discuss this with Steve-and remind him of the picture he was to have taken for me. If he did, get a copy to Hal for me for my arrival there.

On Trent: Ive written him more than I sent you. He phoned me several days ago, ignoring my letters but asking me if I'd be available 2/19 and 26. I think your analysis is close. If you read my letter carefully, you will understand that it really is aimed at reducing the existing divisions and preventing others.

Ricardo Davis has been in touch with me. I have much to tell you all.

Sincerely,